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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Harunori Hirao et al.

Serial No. 09/919,024

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: Method for Starting Up Reactor

Group Art Unit: 1625
Examiner: Taylor V. OH

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

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DEC 27 2002
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AMENDMENT

In response to the final Office Action dated September 24, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) In a process of production including a step for the reaction of catalytic gas phase oxidation induced by supplying at least a raw material to be oxidized and a molecular oxygen-containing gas to a reactor for catalytic gas phase oxidation and a step of absorption, a method for preparing said feed raw material, characterized by supplying the discharged gas obtained at said step of absorption to said reactor thereby causing the concentration of said raw material and the concentration of

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